

citizens, our constituents of the State of Nebraska. What happens if they indeed become dangerous and have to be put into an institution? The amount of money we're talking about for an RX for a prescription becomes really, really cheap in relationship to the amount of money that is going to cost to incarcerate or to otherwise institutionalize those same individuals. Are we going to save money? I tell you that we will not. Is the way to save money to adopt Senator Moore's amendment and limit the number of prescriptions that we make available to these people? I say absolutely not. Is the conservative, fiscal, responsible thing to do to allow these people to be given medications under a system that is reviewed extremely carefully right now, is this the most cost effective way to do this? Yes.

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR BYARS: I think it's no question about it. If you look at the statistics in the State of Nebraska, not even to talk about outside the State of Nebraska, relative to the effectiveness of our review procedures now in whether people need these prescriptions, I think we're doing an excellent job in our drug utilization review program at this time and I say that this amendment won't save money. It's going to cost money. I say that you're going to save money today and I don't think it will take until next week or next year to see the negative effects. I think you can watch it happen tomorrow and please understand, call me a wimp if you'd like, that's okay. If I'm a wimp because I am going to try to make drugs available to people that can become dangerous to themselves and others, I sure am one. Am I being a big spender or am I being conservative?

SENATOR CROSBY: Time.

SENATOR BYARS: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Byars. Senator Hohenstein, on the amendment.

SENATOR HOHENSTEIN: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body, I want to assure the body that this is not a frustration amendment on the part of the Appropriations Committee. I think there is some thought that we became so frustrated we just grabbed something out of the air and we brought it before the body so we could vent our frustration. That's not the case. We